WASHINGTON CITY.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 1857.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT. Charles Corkery, postmaster at Dabuque, Iowa, re

appointed. Samuel Hunt, postmaster at Jacksonville, Florida

reappointed. Reuben Noble, postmaster at Westfield, Massacht setts, in place of Gilbert W. Cobb.

Hon. W. L. Marcy, accompanied by his family left Washington for his home at Albany on Thursday last. Judge Douglas will take his departure from this city for Chicago on Monday next.

Among the distinguished gentlemen now at the seat of government are Senator Thomson, of New Jersey, and Hon. Mr. W. B. Maclay, of New York.

THE TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION OF REPUBLI CANISM.

Failing in their attempt to control the constitu tional rights of the South, the black republicans have turned their attention to the subjugation and control of the democracy at the North, by way of punishing them for the free exercise of their political opinions. The city of New York, at the last election, showed herself strongly democratic, while the State, as a whole, gave the black republicans a plurality, giving them the governor and the control in the legislature. The city elected democrats to Congress and to the State legislature; and hence must be punished for her alleged political sins. This could only be accomplished through the instrumentality of the governor and legislature at Albany; hence the port-warden bill, authorizing the governor and senate to appoint nine port-wardens, with enormous fees, and conferring upon them the control of ships vessels, and certain goods arriving at that port, and also with arbitrary and exclusive authority over divers commercial and legal questions, to the exclusion of courts and juries, in many cases. Old and long-tried and useful laws have been repealed to confer upon these new officers powers which should never be intrusted to a partisan tribunal, and to give nine favorites princely incomes from the pockets of the shippers and merchants.

But the most extraordinary of all measures is the new police bill. The people had elected a demo cratic mayor, and other officers from the same party. These must be stripped of authority; hence the passage of a law to take from the mayor elected by the people the police powers of the city, and to confer them upon three commissioners to be appointed by the governor and senate, thus trespassing upon the rights of the people, who are entitled to selfgovernment, and violating the solemn charter grant ed to the people of the city guarantying them certain privileges. These wanton outrages had two objects in view, to wit : to deprive the democrats in the police service of their employments, and to enable the governor's black-republican associates to employ in their stead partisans of their own stamp. The contrivers of these violations of the constitution and the rights of the people vainly hoped to crush out the democracy of the city and to force them to join the disunion ranks; but they are mistaken. The courts are open, and these aggressive laws are being pronounced null and void, while the people have aroused themselves, almost as one man, and denounced the tyrannical attempt. Instead of driving the democ racy of the city into the black-republican ranks, the mass of the electors of the city have joined the democracy in resisting this assault upon the liberties of the people. This tyranny and oppression have kindled a fire that its authors cannot extinguish but one which will run over the State and annihilate their remaining hopes, and will soon give the democracy the control of the Empire State.

THE DEMOCRACY OF PENNSYLVANIA. We read our exchanges from this sterling demo cratic State with very great pleasure. They show that, in spite of all the efforts by the opposition to prevent it, there are union and harmony in the demoer and more spirited. The electors are becoming fully sensible of the gross frauds practised upon them at the last election, and are fast leaving a standard principally sustained by gross deceptions, and attaching themselves to the party of the Union.

that have made returns of their taxable property for the year 1857 to be \$23,351,70. The taxable property of said counties is \$23,351,701 96. The estimated valuation of taxable property in the Territory for the present year is set down at \$50,000,000, the tax on which, at one mill the dollar, would amount to \$50,000.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

A subscriber in Tennessee has written to us, unde date of the twenty-fourth of April, "the cash system is the only safe financial one on which a journal of the kind you have engaged in conducting should be issued. My time for which advanced payment has been made will not be out for some months to come, but I send herein enclosed five dollars to renew it when it shall expire. I also send two dollars to pay for two copies of the Weekly Union," &c.

Six months ago the majority against Mr. Ruch. in Connecticut was ten thousand three hundred and thirty-five. Now the majority against the democratic candidate for governor is only about four hundred Alas for "bleeding Kansas!"

SKETCHES OF THE NEW CABINET.-THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

of Aaron V. Brown is so con nected with the growth and greatness of Tennes see, with the past triumphs of the democracy of that interesting State, and with the hopes of their future victories, and last but not least with some of the most important political events in the history of the illustrious Jackson, that anything connected with him is read with interest by admiring democrats in every section of the Union. It is, therefore, with great pleasure we lay before our readers this morning the following sketch of this distinguished states man, which we find in a late number of the New Hampshire Patriot. The writer of this admirable sketch wields a ready pen, and has placed Governor Brown in a true, and, as we think, a particularly striking light before the American people, for the governor is eminently a practical man. Gifted with a remarkably vigorous intellect, possessed of a sound and matured judgment, a clear and forcible writer, a persuasive and powerful speaker, he has used these rare gifts and qualities for no other purpose than the public good—for the maintenance of those principles by which alone our free institutions can be preserved and perpetuated-and for the promotion of measures which have added largely to the material prosperity and happiness of the people.

The writer of this article was a fellow-member of Governor Brown in the 27th Congress, and has a personal knowledge of several of the facts stated in the subjoined sketch. The 27th Congress was distinguished for an amount of talent that has never been exceeded in any previous or subsequent Congress; and the position which Governor B. commanded in that distinguished body by his talents, his integrity, and his unflinching devotion to democratic principles, was such as any patriot or statesman might be justly

In this connexion we may not inappropriately add, that we have noticed in the late county meetings of the democracy of Tennessee that a universal expression of confidence and increased regard for the President-in calling one from their State to such high position in whom, for a long period of years, the sterling democracy have learned to trust and respect-has found a liberal space among the resolutions expressive of their desire for the successful career of the administration and the abiding hope of quiet in the Union. We do not remember of witssing a more gratifying indication of strength and devotion at the political fireside, we might say, than the gallant sons of Tennessee have expressed, throughout the length and breadth of its beautiful domain for Gov. Brown and the welfare of the cabinet; and we hope to see this unity of feeling continue to prevail until the democracy of Tennessee shall speak more emphatically their approval by an overwhelming victory at the polls in August next.

From the New Hame THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

The duties of the Post Office Department have gradually risen to the rank of the most important in the coun ally risen to the rank of the most important in the country. One of the last and most conclusive proofs of the civilization of a nation is afforded by its facilities of intercommunication, and the case with which its citizens can transmit to each other all that information concerning their relations, whether of business or of the affections, which constitutes so large a portion of the duties and pleasures of life. Civilization, like everything else in this world, is relative, and depends for its extension, as well as for its moral condition mean the convenience. this world, is relative, and depends for its execusion, as well as for its moral condition, upon the conveniences which men possess of understanding each other, whether by personal contact, or by epistolary communication. In other words, that country is the most civilized which has the best system for the transmission of intelligence.

We have had, in our country, at the head of the Post Office Descriptors, some men, unright and honest indeed.

whose views were too narrow and whose intelligence was too small to appreciate the great want of modern times—the necessity that mankind should understand each other in order to advance in all that constitutes the greatness of a nation. Starting with the absurd theory that the Post Office Department should pay its expenses from its revenues, they believed that this department was in itself of no intrinsic value for which the people were willing to pay. They had a panic terror of cheap postage—an improvement which we adopted from the example of England. But we have also seen at the head of this most important department sagn who, with no business habits, were profuse of money, and under whose reign money was idly spent, and improvements were not effected. We

year 1795. In the year 1814 he graduated at Chapel Hill, in North Carolina. About the year 1817 he com-menced the practice of the law in Nashville, Tennessee. He was connected in his professional practice with the late President Polk until the latter gentleman was elected

to Congress.

In the year 1839, having been elected to Congress him-

attaching themselves to the party of the Union. Leading men, as well as the rank and file, are abandoning the black flag of abolition and dismaion, and arraying themselves on the side of the constitution, equal rights, and the democracy. With so noble and popular a leader as General Packer the election next fall must result in a complete democratic triumph. The opposition are now compelled to fight the battle without the aid of bleeding Kansas," but upon the ground of principle, unaided by false news and manufactured despatches. All is well in Kansas, in spite of opposition attempts to create new difficulties. The democracy of the Keystone State will confront their enemies and those of our free institutions face to face, and in that event the result cannot be doubtful. The policy of the President she has given the nation and that of the democratic party in the State must triumph. No efforts of the black-republican party can save it from defeat and ultimate annihilation.

MINNESOTA.

The report of the iterritorial auditor shows the amount of taxes assessed in the twenty-four counties that have made returns of their taxable property for the year 1857 to be \$23.351.70. The taxable property for the year 1857 to be \$23.351.70. The taxable property for the year 1858 to the democracy.

In the year 1839, having been elected to Congress. In the year 1839, having been elected to Congress himself, jed discontinued the practice of his profession. For a specified of seven less that have made returns and file, are defended the processity of the practice of his profession. For a specified of the general assembly of 'fenancese.

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character as a people.

In the year 1839 Governor Brown was first elected to In the year 1839 Governor Brown was mise closed of Congress. He continued a member of that the year 1845, and was then chosen governor of Tennessee. During his congressional career he was distinguished for qualities far above the average of the men who constitute that assembly, which is remarkable not only for the caprice which characterizes a popular assembly, but for the good sense and sagacity which, when the occasion absolutely demands it, they have been found to

casion absolutely demands it, they have been found to possess.

Gov. Brown's speeches in Congress are not a fair representation of the intelligence and cultivation of that body, for they show him to possess a degree of logical skill and intellectual culture not often shown in congressional annals. It seems to be supposed by many members of that body that the great secret how to govern a country is to be solved by rhetoric. If the English language can be made to answer purposes for which it was never intended, if sentences can be rounded by lofty figures and uttered in a sonorous voice, these gentlemen seem to think that the great object of legislation is effected, and that the country is safe. But Governor Brown's speeches are not to be tried by this standard. He believes that things, and not words, are the great essentials in legislation—that words were given us to convey our ideas, and that if a person has no ideas to convey sentials in legislation—that words were given us to convey our ideas, and that if a person has no ideas to communicate, he had better be silent. In this he differed extremely from those of his contemporaries who endeavored by their affluence of words to conceal their poverty of ideas, for he never spoke unless he had something to say, and when he spoke he expressed himself in the most

direct and perspicuous manner. He thoroughly understands the nature of a popular audience, but, while addressing his fellow-citizens, he has too much respect for their understandlings to condescend to language and promulgate sentiments unworthy of an intelligent people. His speech on the Mexican war, that on the presidential election, in August, 1848, and that delivered in 1852 on the issues of the presidential canvass, so far from being what are ordinarily called "stump speeches," are characterized by a justness of views, an argumentative power, and a chasteness of expression which are seldom found in popular addresses. A speaker who, in addressing a miscellaneous audience, insensibly falls into a train of thought which commends itself to the intellect, while his ideas are rendered attractive by the graces of expression, is far removed ommends itself to the intellect, while his ideas are re-lered attractive by the graces of expression, is far remove rom that numerous crowd of orators who show in ever entence that they are thinking more of themselves tha of their audience or their subject. So far is Governo-brown from belonging to this latter class that any on who reads his speeches may see that he not only under-stands his subject, but pays his audience the compliment of supposing that they understand it also. His speeches during the canvass which resulted in his election as govrnor of Tennessee are favorable specimens of the quali-ies which ought to characterize addresses by public men o an audience of intelligent Americans. But the faculty of public speaking, valuable as it is in

country like ours to its possessor, is not so important to e people in the evil days into which it is to be feared e are falling, as the loftier quality of an intelligent loyalty to the constitution. Personal triumphs are fleeting party politics are temporary, the graces of elecution ar soon forgotten, but the spirit of devotion to the consti soon forgotten, but the spirit of devotion to the constitution, which any public man may show himself to possess, will survive in the memories of the just and wise,
and will bid defiance to the political or clerical or philauthropic traitor. This devotion warms the heart and
breathes in the sentiments of Gov. Brown. To use his
own eloquent language, speaking of the negroes over
whom the philanthropic despots of the North were
shedding fron tears, as hard as those "which rolled down grim Pluto's cheek," he says: "Let them
alone. They are ours by purchase. You of the North
(some of you) first kidnapped them, and then brought
and, sold them to us. Were we to liberate them tomorrow, you would not receive them. You would
treat them with a thousand-fold more barbarity than
ever they were treated by us. Then let them alone.
Your benevolence, false and often hypocritical as it is,
would but kill and destroy them. Then let them alone
God in his love, and religion in her holiness, will do more
and better for them than you ever can or will do. But and better for them than you ever can or will do more and better for them than you ever can or will do. But I forget that I speak to a bigotry that has no heart, and to a fanaticism that has no ears. I turn, therefore, from hem to the men and patriots who belong to these halls—be successors of those illustrious men who can be made and expression. n. If the people shall lift up their eyes to this tem I pray for what it is lawful to grant them unde that constitution, hear them and answer them. But if they ask for what will rend that constitution, and sunder rever that bright and glorious Union, be as deaf and isensible as the marble pillars which surround you." Gov. Brown has always belonged emphatically to that

chool of politics usually known as the "strict construc-tionist"—a school founded by Jefferson and adorned by the examples of successive democratic Presidents. In an address delivered at the University of North Carolina, in every valley, and of the steamboat navigating all ou lakes and buys and rivers, we are compelled to abandon every apprehension of danger from great expansion. Ma-no genuine son of liberty ever desire it to be less! Amer ca may be the last asylum of freedom to the down-trod-len and oppressed millions of mankind. Let her have scope and verge enough for all who understand and revere her principles and implore the protection of her engles. We started with only thirteen, we now have thirty-ones States Why may we not at some future day have fifty or a hun Started with only thirteen, we now have thirty-ones States. Why may we not at some future day have fifty or a hundred States, all moving, like the constellations of heaven, around the constitution as their common centre? That constitution was ordained and established for the purpose of expansion and progress. It provided expressly for the admission of new States without number, but consecrated the word equality for their eternal welfare and preservation—equality of rights among the States.

Save to us this one word equality, and adhere faithfully to a strict construction of the constitution, and the execution of it according to its plain and obvious import, and we have nothing to apprehend from the wide and growing expansion of our country; no matter how many States may compose it, no matter how diversified their climates, as soils, and productions, no matter where may be the many components.

ils, and productions, no matter where may be the pro-inderance of population, nor to what region the sceptre power may be transferred! Give to all, both. States d people, their just and equal rights, with proper means understand and defend them, and this government will ove to be the greatest boon ever conferred an family."

Gov. Brown was the devoted friend of Gen. Jackso throughout his whole public career. He was mainly in-strumental, as a member of the legislature, in electing him to the Semate. He sustained his different nomina-tions for the presidency and all the great measures of his administration. We extract from his inaugural address administration. We extract from his manginal admira-to the legislature his feeling and elequent annunciation of the death of that great man: "Let me now remind you of a great and sad calamity which has befallen our common country since you were last assembled on an oc-casion like this.

casion like this.

"But a few months have passed away since you in particular, and the people of the United States generally, were called upon to mourn the departure from our midst of our most illustrious citizen. The immortal spirit of Andrew Jackson, the patriot, the soldier, and the statesman, has passed from time to eternity. Devoted, until he has passed from time to eternity. Devoted, until he breathed his last, to the best interests of his country, which he had defended with heroje fortitude and courage, and served with a zeal more fervid with increasing years, he findled the server of the s he is passing through the dark valley of the shadow of death, he died at peace with the world, leaving behind during example worthy

him a bright and enduring example worthy the imitation of future generations.

Let Tennessee, his own adopted State, Tennessee—whose armins he has so often covered with glory—Tennessee, whom he honored and loyed and served so long and so faithfully—Tennessee, beneath whose green and hallowed sod his mortal remains have been deposited; let Tennessee rear him a monument lasting as time; let it be planted near one of her most beautiful cities, on the bank of one of the noblest rives in the world, where the crowds who will

one of her most beautiful cities, on the bank of one of the noblest rivers in the world, where the crowds who will pass for ages to come may pause and gaze upon it with reverence and admiration."

We have made the foregoing extracts from Gov. Brown's works, which in the volume in which they are contained may safely be commended to the perusal of all, as they indicate his davotion to the Union, his belief in the great doctrine of the equality of the States, and of a strict construction of the constitution, and his warm sympathy with and friendship for one of the most illustrious of

Major Gustavus A. Henry having declined the omination for Congress tendered him by the knowothing convention of the eighth (Nashville) district of Tennessee, Gen. F. K. Zollicoffer, the member from that district in the last Congress, announces himself as an independent candidate for re-election.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE This body, which numbers nearly four hundred nembers, (nearly all black republicans,) is fast get ting into disrepute and disgrace with their own pointcal friends. The Lowell Fox Populi, one of the land--1-takers, uses the following very

plain language: plain language:

"The Massachusetts legislature ought to be presented as a public nuisance. Notwithstanding their early professions of a desire and determination to make this a short session, and the accumulating evidences of necessity for retrenchment in the public expenses—and notwithstanding the undeniable fact that no single act of legislation was required by the public good—yet they will protract the session to a length of more than five months. Thus it is, and thus it ever will be, so long as we send small, selfish

The Providence Journal, (black republican,) in aluding to the report that Major McCulloch had been appointed governor of Utah, says :

"It strikes us very favorably. He has the reputation of being a firm, vigorous, and withal a prudent man, and perhaps is as well calculated to grapple with the difficulties of the position as any one that could be sent out."

Mrs. Julia Dean Hayne is playing in San Francisco,

GUANO DISCOVERIES.

The New York papers notice the arrival in that city of Mr. Arthur Benson by the last California steamer. He went out (says the Mirror) as the agent of the American Guano Company of New York, dition, a large quantity had been shipped for New York. The supply of guano upon these islands is eported as being almost inexhaustible, and of a quality not inferior to that of the Chinchas. The schoone Liboliho had arrived at Honolulu with 100 tons of guano, from Jarvis and Nantucket islands, awakening a good deal of interest, as the expedition had been looked upon as visionary.

As everything connected with these reported dis overies will be read with deep interest in many sections of this country, we make room for the following intelligence, which appears in the Honolulu Adver

ross or Guano.—The arrival of the fine schooner Liholiho, Captain John Paty, on Saturday, with about a hundred tons of guano, from Jervis and New Nantucket islands, caused no little excitement in our town. When the expedition sailed, on the 25th of December, no one appeared to take much interest in it, further than to express a general denunciation of all humbugs.

The appearance of the specimens of guano which we have seen is that of a fine powder, very much resembling

have seen is that of a fine powder, very much resembling snuff, without the strong smell of ammonia which the Chincha guano has. Under a microscope, it appears entirely composed of crystalized substance, and resembles snow. Good judges pronounce it to be first-quality guano; but what its value is, compared with Chincha guano, remains to be determined. About eight tons of guano, remains to be determined. About eight tons of this guano goes forward by the barque Yankee, to be sent on by the mail steamer, via Panama, to New York, the object being to land it in New York as soon as possible. The balance is being shipped on the clipper ship Aspasia to New York direct, and will reach that port about July

The vessel was ten days from Honolulu to the islands and the same number of days loading, which was effected with whale boats. On the 29th of January they sailed for Howland's

and set sail next day.

They saw New Nantucket on the 9th of February, a low island, which, as they approached, gave faint signs of vegetation, in the shape of dry grass and dead bushes on the water's edge. They landed on the 10th and were agreeably strprised to find the entire surface of the island not only destitute of vegetation, but affording a vast deposite of guano of the very best quality. The Liholiho being already well down in the water and somewhat leaky, only seventy-four bags of this guano were taken on board. The passage to Honolulu was made in twenty-three days, reckoning from the 12th of February until the 7th of March. Absence from Honolulu 71 days. The usual course of the wind was from the N. E. or S. E.; and, although the voyage was made in mid-winter,

the weather was mild, excepting the great heat on shore at mid-day. The currents appeared to change with changes of the moon, from the westward or castward, and might perhaps be considered difficult by inexperienced persons, but it appears to have presented no obstacle to

on each island a flag-staff, upon which now floats merican flag, and each island has on it a small h for the protection of the property of the company, as well as a general caveat against all intruders. One great drawback to these guano islands is the want of fresh wa-ter—not a drop of which is anywhere to be found. Rain seldom falls, as appears by the very dry condition in which they found the guano as deep as four or five feet

below the surface.

Birds, eggs, and fish are in such abundance as almost to stagger our faith in human testimony. At times the birds were so thick as actually to cloud the atmosphere, and it was almost impossible to step without treading on the nests. Altogether, it seems these islands are by all accounts a wonderful place.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

We find in a late number of that sterling demratic journal, the Rock Islander, a candid and ablyvritten article on the new administration, from which we make the following extracts:

'Though Mr. Buchanan has been but a little n restored. Men no longer fear disruption and civil war. Sectional feeling has lost much of its bitterness. The crisis is already passed, and the successful days of geographical paties are over. All men already feel that we have at our head a statesman whose vigilance for his country's welfare never sleeps, whose wisdom has been country's wenter have sacely, whose whose man as ex-matured by long years of experience in great affairs, and whose moral courage enables him to grapple with the gravest emergencies. In the ripe age, experience, and vast legal and political knowledge of the illustrious states-men who form his cabinet, they have additional guarantees of the wisdom of his administration. Mr. Buchanan's appointments to subordinate stations have been such as have universally been halled—even sometimes by the bitterest opposition journals—as eminently fit and proper."

recessful; that its illustrious chief will retire in 1860 companied by the 'love and honor' of the whole nation penceful calm of Wheatland; while his constitu tional advisers will be greeted by the plaudits of a grat-ful people with 'Well done, good and faithful servants!'

THE COMING ELECTION IN KANSAS. The election in Kansas takes place on the 15th of next month. A Kansas correspondent of the St. Louis Republican writes on the 20th ultimo as fol-

The great question is, "Will the free-soliers voter They have sworn that they will not. Should they per-sist, Kansas must necessarily ask for admittance with a constitution admitting slavery, or, at least, not prohibit-ing it. The census act provides that no one shall vote whose name does not appear on the corrected list of voters, prepared under its provisions. It is certain that they have refused to be registered thus far; and as they have but ten days to go on, it is most probable that the pro-slavery votc, as shown by the returns, will be rastly in the majority. The truth is, that the policy of the aboin the majority. The truth is, that the policy of the abo-lition leaders is to let Kansas be a slave State, without an effort, for the purpose of keeping up agitation. This pol-icy, dictated at the North, has been adopted in Kansas. Let Kansus come in as a slave State, as it must undoubt-edly do, should they persist in the course named, and then what a hurrah and fuss they will make about the "extension of slavery." They will say "we told you so; it was the object of the democratic party when they re-pealed the Missouri Compromise. Down with the slavery propagandists."

INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN MINNESOTA.

The St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer is disposed to egard the late reports in reference to the alleged dian hostilifies in that Territory as gross exaggerations-or, to use the emphatic language of that paper as "a great humbug," In its issue of the 19th ult - and the following statement : ------- arrived on Friday night, from

"The steamboat Cia..... arrived on Friday night, from came down on ravers des Sioux. The passengers was the Clarion confirm the correctness of the statemental deby us yesterday relative to the gross exaggration of the reports of Indian murders in the neighborhood of

"As we stated yesterday, there is not the least evider ain the report of an attack by the Indians on the on the Watonwan and Blue Earth rivers. The settlers on the Watonwan and Blue Earth rivers. The only murders of which we have any intelligence were those committed at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and at Springfield, in Brown county, but five miles from the Iowa line, in March and the early part of April. Nor is there any evidence going to show that the band of outlawed Indians who committed the murders at those places proceeded north in the direction of Mankato, but, on the contrary, it is believed by gentlemen at Fort Ridgely, conversant with the character of the Indians, that immediately upon the commission of the outrage at Springfield they departed in great haste for the Missouri. This manualing band did not number twenty-five men, and was composed of

ON ABOLISHING THE BELLIGERENT RIGHT OF chantmen from the field of competition, and which won PRIVATEERING.

We publish below the second letter of William Carey Jones, esq., in opposition to the abolishment of the belligerent right of privateering. We regret and has visited Jarvis island, Howland's island, and that the crowded state of our columns prevented its New Nantucket, in the Pacific ocean, and brings publication yesterday. It treats upon a grave subof hostilities should be in the apparition of blocks fleets along our coast, yet there could be no blocks strong that it would not sometimes be broken. If the by our vessels-of-war and by privateers, as the country before they would assent to so great a with him four tons of the guano as a sample. In ad- ject. This question deserves, and doubtless will our country before they would assent to so great a change in the long-settled law of nations as has been proposed. The wise and experienced men now at the head of our government will make no mistake in their action upon it.

THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LAWS OF WAR

To General Lewis Cass, Secretary of State

Sin: In the former letter that you permitted it honor of addressing to you on this subject I endeavored to show that the United States ought not to concur in the abolishment of privateering as a belligerent right in the terms dictated by the conference at Paris. I propose now

consider—

H. Ought the United States to concur in the Paris dec laration as proposed to be modified by the late Secretary of State, and does that proposed addition make the declaration more recommendable, or less so, as "a measure of Ameri-

The adoption into the belligerent code of the declaration. I have not thought would have the effect to prevent the use of the merchant marine of a country for the purposes of war, only to change the manner of its use: hence that it would not place the United States at use; hence that it would not place the United States at so very great disadvantage in the prosecution of hostili-ties at sea relatively with the resources of other mari-time powers; since they, as well as an enemy, could commission their merchant ships as vessels-of-war. The general objections to the simple declaration are two: first, that though it professes to be "in the interests of human-ity" and entitled to the "gratitude of the whole world," it would consected to the ward of the whole world," t would operate to make maritime warfare severer and cloodier and costlier, and at the same time less effective econd, that it would introduce an additional immorality second, that it would introduce an additional immorality into the conduct of international hostilities by compelling the subterfuge of naming as national vessels, vessels that would be in fact privateers. The special objection—that is, the objection in addition to those general objections on the score of humanity and truthfulness—that ought to affect the determination of this republic in the premises is, that the adoption of the "declaration" would compel it to change in a large degree the character of its belligerent resources and adapt them to the requirements of dynasties that govern States instead of to the ideas of a people who govern (and, when war comes, wish to do the fighting for) themselves; and, if that object was not the very motive of the "declaration," it would be refreshing to see a memorandum of tion," it would be refreshing to see a memorandum of the councils by which it was arrived at, or that some the councils by which it was arrived at, or that some friend of it, at home or abroad, would point out what other purpose desirable to any human being it could ef-fect. This is in the supposition that maritime Powers en-gaged in war would not forego the use, in some form, of the resources for hostilities offered in their merchant ships. Were the proposition adopted in good faith, and ships. Were the proposition adopted in good faith, and carried out to the apparent intent of its words, so that private vessels should be precluded from hostile equipments and operations either as privateers or under the subterfuge of commissions into the government establishment, it would be in another way disastrous to our country. It would diminish the relative amount besides the character of its beligarent resources. Out hanging the character of its belligerent resources. Only, therefore, in the certainty that the subterfuge I have men tioned would be resorted to could the United States find the Paris declaration even tolerable; consistent with their equality on the seas or as a power capable of becoming an

active belligerent.

The modification proposed by Mr. Marcy presents the plan in a more plausible shape. It contemplates the exemption of merchant ventures, except "contraband of war," from capture on the high seas (meaning by high seas those parts of the occan that are not recognised as belonging to the sweetal purishiction of the nations that belonging to the special jurisdiction of the nations that border them) by national vessels as well as by privateers. This mensure is recommended under the plausible sug-gestion of making private property on the great occanic common free of the penalties of war as modern usage has made private property on land. The suggestion is a fal-lacy. The reasoning that applies to the one case does not apply to the other. If it did, the point is not necessary to this part of the argument, because Mr. Marcy's plan would be far from effecting the suggested purpose. It does not provide for the exemption of private property. either on the high seas or in any place where it floats. It leaves in force the right of belligerents to blockade each other's ports; and the right of blockade carries with it the right of capture in going into or out of port. It leaves in force the right to overhaul commercial vessels, whether of enemies or neutrals, to search for "contraband" goods; and that without defining what goods shall be counted contraband, or suggesting any other way to avoid the recurrence of those "deplo-rable disputes" so feelingly lamented (but carefully not provided against) by the Paris conference. For any provided agains; by the rails conference. For any purpose of preventing damage to private property or the interruption of private enterprise on the seas, the meas-ure proposed by the late Secretary is entirely at fault. It would increase, and largely, to a State that in its regu-lar establishment should be powerful for maritime war the

lieved of the necessity of convoying or defending its mer-chant marine, a State so situated would turn its entire na-val force to the blockade of an enemy's harbors, and the and that of his friends on the open seas. That the pow-er for offence of a State that maintains a great naval es-tablishment would be increased in the proportion that its necessity for defence was diminished is so plain, as an ab-stract proposition, that it only needs to be stated. What, then, would be the result to the special interests—the inerests and position of our own country-which are intrusted, sir, in so large a degree, to your high office? That is the point of view in which an American administration, an American Secretary, and American citizens ought the institutions and policy of the American pe to prevent their collision with any trans-oceanic State; and, in case of such collision, secure to them the ability of defence and offence, according to the manner most agreeable to their ideas and training and most formidable to the energy.

Mr. Madison, in his message to Congress of June 1st, 1812, and the committee of the House of Representatives to whom the message was referred, charged that the purpose of the outrages on our maritime rights which led to the last war with Great Britain was to wound this country as a "commercial rival," and "establish a monopoly of commerce and navigation" and a "dominion of the ocean." The same imputed purpose was believed by many persons to have been at the bottom of a measure the unconsed "Continuola treaty") that it was worse used. many persons to have been at the bottom of a measure (the proposed "Quintuple treaty") that it was your good fortune, sir, some fifteen years ago, to be in a position, by your sagarity and promptitude, to defeat. What has thus been charged as a purpose the adoption of Mr. Marcy's plan would accomplish as a fact, in case the United States should have the misfortune of a war with England and France, or either of them. Our commerce and navigation would be excluded from the ocean; our merchantmen rot at the wharves; our seamen and naval architects be compelled to other words. near not at the wharves; our seamen and naval architects be compelled to other pursuits; our fisheries destroyed; our whalers, unable to bring in their cargoes, driven even from the remote seas where they prosecute their hardy enterprise; and, with the decline of the callings that have produced them, would, of

trom the remote seas where they prosecute their hardy enterpoise; and, with the decline of the callings that have produced them, would, of course, decline the spirit and skill that have given our seamaniship and the craft of our ship-builders their acknowledged superiority. All this would result from the simplest of processes—merely shutting up our ports by blockade.

The United States, it is true, have the advantage of a long line of coast so indented with harbors as that they said to be seen to be said from the sea. But the naval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the naval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the sea. But the haval armacannot be the said from the seas of the said still to keep at sea force enough to waylay any stray vessel that might venture, as well as the commerce of neutrals, and break up their voyages under the pretence of searching for it controlled. A 'monopoly of navigation and commerce' and 'the dominion of the seas' thus once established, the enemy would not have any possible inducement to enter on terms of peace. The war—it that could be called a war which consisted of shutting one of the parties to it as in a shell—would become in fact such a source of absolute profit to the enemy as to make a permanency of it more desirable to him than any terms that

the parties to it as in a small and the control of a source of absolute profit to the enemy as to make a permanency of it more desirable to him than any terms that we could offer to be rid of it. His navy could not have a we could oner to be rid of it. His nevy could not have a less expensive or better employment than standing off our coasts, and making an occasional prize of a vessel that might attempt the blockade, while the monopoly of trade which would result from the exclusion of our mer-

include manufactures as well as commerce and navigation would fill his coffers with a perennial stream.

It has been suggested that that result is as liable happen whether this country shall adopt or not the posed abolishment of commercial captures at sea. It suggestion is not without plausibility; but it is not true. Even were we taken by surprise, and the first is of hostilities should be in the apparition of bo ken by our vessels-of-war and by privateers, as the preent laws of war allow, or by our vessels-of-war and i
private vessels commissioned as national, as would be ti
operation of the Paris declaration, they would present
make havee enough with the enemy to draw off a largpart of his blockade to take care of his own commerce
But if they had nothing to do when they got our,
would be the case under Mr. Marcy's plan—prohibit
in advance from annoying the enemy's trade, or in as
manner reimbursing themselves—of course there would
be no inducement for them to take the hazard of break
ing the line. Moreover, it is not often that great in
tions are surprised by a sudden apparition of war, in
that it takes place till the portentous event has long tions are surprised by a sudden apparition of war, no that it takes place till the portentous event has long one its shadow. We are not likely, therefore, to be caugh by actual hostflities with all our maritime resources link to be locked up in port. But, if the suggestion were even true, it does not afford an argument—it would hardly be an apology—for our assent to the proposed new rule We ought at least to retain the chances, the possibility

We ought at least to retain the chances, the possibility of retailation on a maritime enemy.

Another objection to the plan of Mr. Marcy, and in which it does not compare favorably, as regards the interests of our country, with the "naked proposal" of Paris, is that it would leave us without the possibility of even getting to what would be the probable points of content to in any war that could occur between our country and other maritime States. I have heretofore assumed that the the restriction is contained to the content of the content o and other martine coates and think that the position is certainly correct, the United States and their chief competitors the United States and their chief competitors on it seas should ever come to hostilities the dispute wi arise in some question of territorial advantage on par of or adjacent to our continent; and that, even if som other were the direct motive of the quarrel, the seize of territory that neither belligerent could reach except by sea would be one of the grand strategies of the war. For example, in the misfortune of a war with Great Britain or France, what would be easier than for the en-my, after having blockaded our ports, to shut up also, or take military possession of, the great gateways by which the States of this Union that front on one occurcommunicate with those that front on the other? It communicate with those that front on the other? It is true that, after many years of negotiation, sometimes quite angry, about that commanding part of the world. Isthmian America, we are lately given indirectly to understand that the whole matter is a bagatelle to European States, and that among them is a general disposition not to interfere with this continent, nor with such views as the chief Power of it may find just and expedient. I do not cast a doubt on the sincerity and truth of these professions. There are, however, persons as is credulous as to suspect that there is connected with this delightful affability and good nature an experiment as to whose shall be the innocent and flattered fingers to rake the chestnuts (query; Marrons de Chine?) from the hot ashes. At all events it is a possible contingency that there may be a reactionary sentiment, and that points of such importance to all the quarters of the globe, and which have been objects of solicitude for near four centuments and the points of the globe, and which have been objects of solicitude for near four centum.

which have been objects of solicitude for near four centu-ries, may come again to be objects of contention.

There are principles in the Paris declaration that ought, with additions, to be universally adopted; those that re-late to the rights of neutrals; to the exemption from the pains of war of States that are not concerned in it. The United States have always contended for those principles; and it will be with high satisfaction that the American people will note the passage relating to that subject in the peculiarly handsome address of the plenipotentiary ther Britannic Majesty at the recent festival of St. George No better or securer offering of peace held in New York. No better or securer offering of pace and good-will could be held out by our mother country than that she is willing to adopt in full the rights that we have always claimed for neutrals, without requiring as a condition that we shall sacrifice our rights and power as a belligerent. I assume that the "spontaneous deci-ration" of her Majesty's government which the excellent address of Lord Napier refers to is intended to be such as address of Lord Napier refers to is intended to be such as offering. At all events, the statesman who shall succed in establishing as a rule hereafter to be observed, that belligerents shall not be privileged to prey on the property of neutrals, will indeed prevent in future was the "deplorable disputes" that characterized former ones, and have carned the "gratitude of the whole world." The research appears present appears, from many circum ous time for thus bringing a perverted law onform with the laws of nature.

to conform with the laws of nature.

I have the honor, sir, again to subscribe myself, most respectfully, your friend and fellow-citizen.

WASHINGTON, April 28, 1857.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Frankfort-on-the-Muine. - German Code of Commerce. - A

orrespondent writes as follows: I informed you, some time ago, that a commission composed of representatives of the several German governments, had, by a resolution of the Diet, been appointed to meet at Nuremburg, in order to frame a projet of a general code of commerce for the whole confederacy. The commission began its labors two months ago. Two pro-jects had been proposed: one by Austria, and one by Prussia. The commission decided on taking the labor

precise and been proposed; one by Austria, and one of Prussia. The commission decided on taking the later for the basis of its deliberations; no doubt because it had already been examined by a committee of lawyers and practical men, appointed at Berlin.

The progress hitherto made by the Nuremburg commission is totally unknown, it having decided to maintain a profound silence on its deliberations. The public is not at all extends with this decided. produint spice of the decision. The newspapers—of pecially of Hamburg and Bremen—have expressed apprehensions as to the spirit in which the project will be framed. They seem to fear that this will be more the retical than practical, as the Prussian project contains provisions not favorable to the principles of the enlight-ened commerce which prevails, especially amongst the merchants of the Hanse Towns.

It is generally thought that the working of the com-

It is generally thought that the working of the com-mission would be much more salutary if subjected to the influence and criticism of public opinion. On the other hand, it should be borne in mind that the Prussian project has been published; that it was framed with the concur-rence of practical men; that the commission at Nuremthe commission is only the projet to be submitted for the action of the Diet after it has been given to the public, and the opinion of the different governments having been expressed in the form of instructions to their min-isters at Frankfort.

At any rate it seems not likely that the commission will be able to bring its work to a close under six months; and if the public are kept in ignorance of the daily prog-ress, the members of the commission will, on their part, have ample time to consult practical men and public

opinion.

Another step towards a German union will be accomplished if a general code of commerce can be framed and be made acceptable to all the States of Germany. Many doubt if this can be done; and there is a rumor to the contract of th

certain modifications to the law concerning rates of ex-change, which was framed a few years ago at the confer-ence of Leipsic, and has since been introduced in the

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

First Comptroller of the Treasury .- Yesterday, after taking ne oath of office, which was administered to him by Judge Crawford, Hon. William Medill, of Ohio, entere upon the duties attached to the office of First Comptrolle

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Indian Difficulties .- The Commissioner of Indian Affairs as received advices which confirm the recent newspaper reports of the Indian difficulties in Iowa and the souther portion of Minnesota, but no particulars of additional interest are given.

Office is at present engaged in adjusting the accounts of the deputy surveyors for surveys completed in the Terri tories of Washington and Oregon during the past quarte

cently made a foray upon the settlements of Medio county, and were followed and overtaken by a compas of citizens. A skirmish ensued, in which two citizen were wounded—the loss of the Indians not accertained.